(c) how far will this help to provide full time job with better return to the artisans in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Marketing support & Services Scheme is being implemented during the 11th Plan Period with the aim to provide direct marketing outlets to the craftpersons for participation in various marketing events/melas for augmenting their sales. The scheme has three broad components *i.e.* Domestic Marketing, International Marketing and Publicity. A sum of Rs. 97.19 lakhs have been sanctioned to various implementing agencies under the scheme to the State of Orissa during 2007-08. In addition 6 exhibitions has been sanctioned to various agencies.

(c) The aim of the scheme is to provide more marketing outlets to craftpersons which indirectly create more employment channels and not to provide full time job.

Surajkund type Melas in other States

2166. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether his Ministry would hold a fair on the lines of Surajkund Mela to promote handlooms and handicrafts in other States especially in Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Textiles provides financial assistance to hold craft melas every year on the lines of Surajkumd Mela by the concerned State Governments/ Mela authorities to promote handlooms and handicrafts in the States of Andhra Pradesh (Shilparamam at Hyderabad), Uttar Pradesh (Taj Mahotsav at Agra), Rajasthan (Shilpram at Udaipur), Punjab (Patiala Heritage at Patiala), Maharashtra (Zonal Craft Mela at Mumbai), Madhya Pradesh (Zonal Craft mela at Gwalior) and Orissa (Zonal Craft Mela at Bhubaneswar) to which both handloom weavers and handicrafts artisans are sponsored by this Ministry.

Funds to NTC Mills during Eleventh Plan Period

2167. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Textile Corporation mills functioning in various sectors in country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of out of them lying closed during each of last five years, sector-wise, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether a large number of workers have been rendered jobless as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Terriroty-wise;

(e) whether Government proposed to revive/re-open closed mills and rehabilitate jobless workers;

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(g) the funds allocated in this regard during Eleventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) National Textile Corporation (NTC) has 117 mills after transfer